

3. One day Aesha the wife of the Prophet was keeping fast. There was no food in the house except one small loaf of bread. A poor woman came to the door and asked for alms Aesha told the maid servant to give her loaf. The maid said "Madam! if we give away this loaf, there would be nothing for you to break your fast with." Aesha replied, "please do give it to her as I have told you and leave the rest to God".

STORY 17.

MUSLIM SELF-RESPECT AND BEGGARY ARE POLES APART.

In these days owing to the apathy of the Ulema Muslims have forgotten the teachings of Islam, and there are more professional beggars among them than among any other people. But in the time of the Prophet and the first four Caliphs the case was just the reverse. Islam and beggary were as poles asunder. A Muslim was self-respect personified as the following anecdotes will show:

1. Once some Muslims waited upon the Prophet to renew their Bait (pledge of loyalty). One of the conditions of the Bait was that they would not beg anything of any man. The Muslims carried out this condition so rigidly that if some one dropped his whip while riding, he never asked any one to pick it up for him even if scores of men were passing by. He would come down from his animal and pick it up himself.

2. Once (Hazrat) Abu Baker was riding his camel. He accidentally dropped the reins of the animal. Upon this he made the camel sit, got down, himself picked them up and then got on the back of the camel. "O Caliph why did you not ask me to hand them to you" said someone standing by. "Surely it would have caused me no trouble." "The Prophet has taught us not to beg in any form or shape," replied (Hazrat) Abu Baker